

U.S. Application No. 10/502,117
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2007
Amendment dated: May 27, 2008

REMARKS:

A Request for Continued Examination has been included with this response. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the finality of the last Office Action and request further consideration of the attached amended and new claims on the merits. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejection set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103. Applicant respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest applicants presently claimed invention as now specified.

New claims 21 - 27 have been added in order to alternately define the invention as disclosed in the specification. Additionally, the claims have been modified to further specify specific structures and materials which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art references of record.

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's position, and solely to expedite prosecution, claims 3, 9, 18, and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The Examiner has rejected these claims in view of the cited prior art reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the references of record including the primary reference is relied upon by the examiner failed to provide any teaching suggestion whatsoever regarding the invention as now claimed.

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The Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

In the event that it is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3891.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 5/28/08

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